

New York April 16th 1825

My dear Torrey I had a delightful ^{tete a tete} with our
Schweinitz for an hour & half. He regretted exceedingly
that he had not seen you. You would have been delighted
with him - He is a capital fellow full of glee & conversa-
tion - talks & smokes incessantly. I had prepared myself
for a second interview with a thousand questions to ask
him - but tho' I called on him twice unfortunately
he had gone to dine out & visit & as ill luck
would have it I was just in time next morning
to see the steam Boat carry him on board his vessel
He bro't all his Carices in a large care & they are
an elegant collection - As to any alteration or amendment
he says he is entirely willing to submit it to us
so that if you think proper to remould it in any
shape, I think we are quite warranted in publishing
it in that way - Cooper has the mss. & he will
send it to you - He talks of coming up to see
you next week or the week after, & I will send
the Carices by him if you please - Our steam
Bt. Fanny, Douglass - will sail next week &
stop at N. point & Mr. Allain thinks it would
be best to retain the mineral case until she goes
otherwise I sh. have sent it before - I assure
you it was not wholly from forgetfulness that
it was not attended to, tho' that sin may very

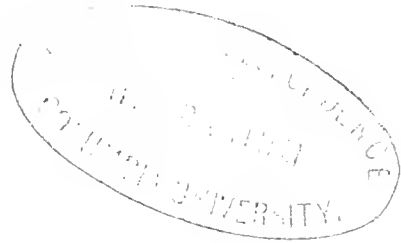
be laid at my door in very many instances - I will see that you get the little instruments you spoke about - The picker is done & the chisel ~~will~~ can soon be finished -

I have made a desperate attack upon the Fungi lately & hope to make a good account of them before next winter. I find a great difficulty in managing the microscope, but still practice will I think overcome the obstacle - I have in the space of the few hours I have devoted to it, detected some dozen of Links & Nees genera of the Byssoides of which I had before no idea - Schweinitz assured me that in his opinion the Fungi are by far the easiest & most certain of detection in the whole range of Botany, & I wanted to get some instruction in that way from him but was too late - I shall particularly examine all his specimens - He very kindly offered me the use of his Books during his absence, & wrote to his family to send them to me particularly Nees' system wh. will be invaluable - I think this ground is untrodden, & that the little I can do will avail something, & I know you agree with me in believing it better to do a little well than much imperfectly - As to the Lichens I think I am tolerably au fait, as I certainly have the best collection next to Schwarz of American specimens & I can readily detect a non enumerated species - For the present, especially with my opportunities, it is scarcely worth while to go further - But in mycology what a world is there yet to be revealed by the magic power of the microscope - I am delighted even with the short excursion I have made in it -

I send you a slip of proof sheet of your Synopsis - There is some error in the msp. & neither Cooper nor myself can exactly correct it - There are 2 spec. of same name, & one of the

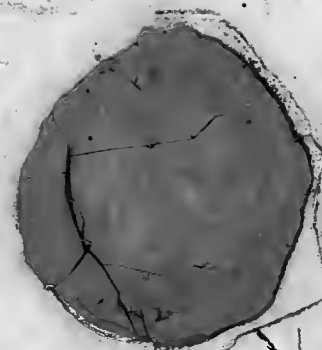
descriptions ~~about~~ precisely fit the other with the exception of
one word -

I am interrupted for the present & must stop short
believe me to be with the truest friendship
yours, A.M.



ask

Dr. John Torrey
West Point
N. York



And, verily
may cut

A. M. Bee
Apr. 10th 1835
He: Apr. 20th

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Recd. March 21st.

Ans^d. March 23LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Dearest Torrey

Thank you heartily for your kind letter - I receive it in the midst of business & tho. I had better drop a line immediately in relation to one part of your informatⁿ - I may be in N York in April but I fear not before I have a catalogue of Coleopt^e insects (about 350 species) prepared for the annals - If you want it I w^l send it immediately - They were gather^d by myself while in N York, & during the last fall & winter have been studied & determined. Then are perhaps 25 new species - Dr. Harris of Cambridge has compar^d all my doubtful species with his & Mr. Hentz also Say's collections all of which he has I sh^d like if you think it w^l do for the Lyceum to insert it in the annals - with respect to the Geological Survey I sh^d much like to take the Zoology if you tho^t there was any chance to get it - as to qualify^g for I presume I sh^d be as much as most of the competitors - The last 12 mo. I have devoted to entomology & have made tolerable progress in it & as to drawing have rubbed up that not a little - I sh^d like to show you some of my Butterflies & coleopt. of which I have figured 250 species - Dr. Harris who has seen them tells me (flattery?) that they are decidedly better than most of Say's. He never saw the 1/2 of what I have -

Now all this I say with the office in view wh. you mention, if you think there is any probability of such a thing I should like if you w^l take it in hand. & with the other good friends of mine in the Lyceum write in an application for to the governor. I think that we could by making a business of it get up a very creditable account of our natural riches - You w^l take the Botany - of course -

but I am obliged to stop - accept my sincerest acknowledgments

Yours
Wm. H. Henshaw
Nash^v. March 28
1826

Given by A. W. VAIL,
from the J. J. Crooke Collection
MAR 4-1907

Dr. John Torrey

New York

Ans^d. Apr. 16th.

Hartford April 8th 1836

An opportunity unexpectedly offering I send you my rough draft of the Catalogue of Coleoptera found in the neighborhood of Worcester as you may perhaps think it advisable to offer it to the Lyceum Monday next. It is not fit in its present state for publication but if you are ready to go on with it I will send you a clean copy for the printer with a short preliminary flourish. You will see the No. is 300 - then an all that I have well determined - I have collected about 50 more species which I am uncertain yet about. I have also a catalogue of 60 or 70 Lepidoptera of Worcester city & vicinity which I will send you, as it will do for the minutes of the Lyceum for the present, until the no. is enlarged or until the other classes are ready for a general catalogue of Insects of Worcester. I wish you w^d. keep the present M^s. in your possession until I send you a copy -

I shall state in the preface the fact of that the No. of Coleoptera is small compared with what might have been collected or drawn up by a more industrious or fortunate collector but then are probably the most commonly to be found, as they were taken during my botanical excursions a few seasons past -

I hope the other matter is still in a train - If anything occurs to alter the affair do write me, & write me too if the publishing committee want the M^s. for the printer - that is if the Lyceum think it worth while to publish it

Excuse my brief epistle, remembrance to all our good fellows
Yours sincerely A. H.

Abraham H. Bay